



# Foggy Bottom News

June 1996

Published by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom and West End

Volume 38, No. 8



## GWU Employees Clean Out Encampments

For three full days in late April, employee volunteers from GWU, aided by Metropolitan Police, cleared out and cleaned up the homeless encampment at 27th and K Streets. The 11-man crew and its two supervisors removed "tons and tons" of trash, garbage, old furniture, clothing, and bedding from beneath the Whitehurst Freeway. According to MPD Sgt. Michael Vincent, the

encampment was "the biggest, filthiest location in the Second District, perhaps in the city."

The crews removed the accumulated material, using plastic bags, shovels, pitchforks, wheelbarrows, large carts and even a small front loader. In many cases they had to push the carts and wheelbarrows up steep banks to empty them into large dumpsters. The university not

only did the cleanup, but is paying any dumping fees which might be charged, according to *The Washington Times*.

A special police squad first issued warnings to the inhabitants of public space, and allowed them 48 hours to leave the premises. They were referred to homeless advocacy organizations such as the George-

*continued on page 5*

## Hearings on Fire Department Closings in June

According to D.C. City Councilmember Jack Evans' office, hearings probably will be held in early June on the proposal to reduce Fire Department service in our area. The hearings will be held by the Council's Judiciary Committee, chaired by Councilmember William Lightfoot. Below are the names of the other Committee members, and letters, faxes, calls and other communications with your opinions should be directed to them as soon as possible. This committee oversees the Fire Department budget, as well as that of the Metropolitan Police.

The current proposal is to eliminate Engine Co. 1 at 23rd & M Streets, N.W., a primary firefighting response vehicle for our area.

*continued on page 3*

A representative from Fire Chief Latin's office has been invited to speak at the May FBA meeting.



Larry King

## FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

Speaker:

**Larry King**

Director, D.C. Department of Public Works

Tuesday, May 28, 1996

Wyndham Bristol Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

*(Next Meeting: Monday, June 24)*

## Three Holdups in Two Weeks

As we went to press, we learned that three armed holdups have taken place in the 25th & Eye Street area within two weeks. Two apparently were by the same man, at about 11:00 p.m. near the victims' front doors. The assailant had a knife and demanded money and ATM cards. Neighbors are looking into increased lighting and other measures to increase their safety.

## DPW Chief at May FBA Meeting

At the FBA meeting on Tuesday, May 28, the featured speaker will be Larry King, Director, D.C. Department of Public Works. DPW is responsible for the city's streets and bridges, motor vehicle use and parking, recycling and solid waste collection, has 2500 employees and a budget of \$300,000,000.

Prior to joining DPW in 1995, he was Arlington County's Environmental Services Director, Deputy Director of San Diego's General Services Department, and served as DPW's Deputy Director for Operations and Director of the D.C. Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.

In earlier presentations before local civic associations, King has expressed his bent for practical solutions to DPW's enormous tasks, and his willingness to take help from any and all competent sources. The responsibilities of his department are being made increasingly difficult by the city's budgetary crisis. Perhaps the most visible of his difficulties are our omnipresent potholes.

FBA is pleased to welcome this hardworking but heckled public servant to the May 28 meeting.



# EDITORIAL

## Where Credit Is Due

Foggy Bottom's relationship with George Washington University is a series of ups and downs — to many of us they are mostly downs as their grasp on the area spreads.

But at a FBA meeting last fall the University made a promise, voiced by Associate Vice President Al Ingle, to take responsibility for trying to clean up areas occupied by the homeless in our neighborhood.

Just a few weeks ago, they made good on that promise. Accompanied by the Metropolitan Police, volunteers from the GWU maintenance and grounds staffs spent three days on that commitment. It was an excruciatingly dirty job, as can be seen in the photos in this issue.

The crews found and removed hundreds of pounds of material accumulated over months and perhaps years, including items suspected to have been stolen from nearby homes and autos.

Their efforts resulted in uncomplimentary stories in the media and questions from their own students about whether or not it should have been done.

But it's a different story we heard from the Metropolitan Police and from Foggy Bottom residents, who can't applaud those volunteers enough. And we agree that the University administration's promise was kept "in spades," and that the employee volunteers performed heroically. Our hats are off to them all.

founding fathers. As George Washington put it, the city would serve as "the channel of commerce" for the "trading of a rising empire," one that could serve the nation by forming a link to western rivers capable of "binding these people to us by a chain which can never be broken."

In addition to its account of the obstacles the city faced in achieving the stature of a world capital, the volume contains essays examining early architectural response to its dual character and its vibrant African American community. One essay focuses on the importance of class and gender in Washington's formative social relationship as described in Margaret Bayard Smith's writing.

Edited by Howard Gillette Jr., GW professor of American civilization and history, the volume's authors are David R. Goldfield, Robert Lee Bailey, Professor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and editor of the "Journal of Urban History;" Professor Bernard Herman of the University of Delaware; Fredrika J. Teute, editor of publications at the Institute of Early American History and Culture in Williamsburg, Virginia; and Mary Beth Corrigan of the University of Maryland's Department of History.

The book, published in conjunction with the American Architectural Foundation, sells for \$17.95. Call 202/994-6071.

## Neighboring Community Holds Flea Market

The Palisades-Georgetown Lions Club is holding its annual flea market on Saturday, June 1 (rain date June 2) at MacArthur Boulevard and Arizona Avenue, N.W., from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Included will be a bake sale, hot dogs and sodas for sale, and a variety of individuals and groups selling "one man's junk — another man's treasures." As is the usual Lions' custom, free eye and hearing exams will be available.

## New Book Published On Early Growth of The Nation's Capital

The Center for Washington Area Studies at the George Washington University has released a volume of four essays titled "Southern City, National Ambition, The Growth of Early Washington, D.C. 1880-1860." The publication looks at the formative years of the nation's capital.

The essays explore the complex character of Washington as a product both of its southern location and the ambitions of the

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## Foggy Bottom News

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor ..... Ellie Becker  
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin  
Ad Billing ..... Iiona Melstrads

All announcements, letters, articles are welcome but must be typed double spaced. Please include an evening phone number. Send to:

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**Hearings** (continued from page 1)

Also scheduled for elimination is Engine Co. 9 at 1617 U Street, N.W., one of the close backup units for our area.

During a discussion of this subject at the FBA meeting April 29, it was reported that the ladder truck currently at 23rd & M would not be moved and would respond when needed. However, it does not carry hoses, so it will travel to the site of a fire and provide access, but it cannot fight the fire without an engine company, which will not be housed in the same station. Other information provided by the firefighters, later on in this article, provides interesting statistics about the past and present status of this essential service.

Members of the Council Judiciary Committee:

William Lightfoot (At-Large) Room 119  
Phone: 724-8045  
Fax: 724-8055

Harold Brazil (Ward 6) Room 110  
Phone: 724-8068  
Fax: 724-8097

Jack Evans (Ward 2) Room 101  
Phone: 724-8058  
Fax: 724-8023

Kevin Chavous (Ward 7) Room 108  
Phone: 724-8068  
Fax: 724-8097

Our Councilmember, Jack Evans, is opposed to these cuts, as most are in Ward 2, the most densely populated ward. Other Councilmembers not on the committee whom you might wish to contact are the at-large members of the Council, John Ray, Linda Cropp, Hilda Mason, and Council Chair Dave Clarke. They represent all wards, and will have a vote on any proposal coming out of the committee to the full council.

According to local firefighters, the D.C. Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department remains in "critical condition." Following are previous budget reductions the D.C. Fire Department has sustained since 1991.

- **Eliminated** Engine Co. 3, serving Capitol Hill.
- **Eliminated** Ladder Co. 1, serving the downtown area.
- **Eliminated** Rescue Squad 4, serving Wards 2, 3 and 4.
- **Eliminated** Second Battalion Fire Chief's office serving Wards Two and Three.
- **Eliminated** 50% of pumping apparatus for all engine companies.
- **Eliminated** an additional Battalion Fire Chief's office by combining the seventh and eighth Battalions serving Wards 5, 6 and 7.
- **Reduced** fire unit staffing by 20% since 1991 from 304 fire fighters to 228 firefighters on duty protecting eight wards, 585,221 residents (according to 1992 census) plus a daytime influx of approximately 1.5 to 2 million workers and visitors.
- **Eliminated** Deputy Fire Chief Supervision of the Fire Fighting Division during the evenings and weekends. These officials must now respond to emergencies from home.
- **Eliminated** the Fire Ground Commander's Administrative Assistants, thereby removing a key component in the Fire Ground Incident Command System.

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### Foggy Bottom News

- **Reinstated firehouse rotation**, placing up to five fire units out of service for a 24-hour period, every day. This practice was attempted in the 1970's (during another budget crisis) and was **halted** after the **multiple deaths** of small children from fires located in close proximity to closed fire units. The Washington Press Corps dubbed this practice "Fire House Roulette." The Fire Department budget was **slashed** 30% since 1991 while workload **doubled**.

FY 1991	FY 1994	FY 1995
304 On Duty F/F's	248 On Duty F/Fs	228 On Duty F/Fs
79,000 Emergency Responses	147,008 Emergency Responses	144,078 Emergency Responses

The total share of the D.C. Budget has been **slashed** from 3.15% in FY 1991 down to a total share of D.C. Budget of 2.2% in FY 1995.

The Fire Chief has instituted a policy, **on his own**, of placing additional fire units out of service if the personnel needs of the Fire Department require the callback of more than 25 fire fighters on overtime. This policy has resulted in as high as nine fire units being placed out of service for the 24-hour tour of duty.

At times DCFD has been unable to simultaneously cover two fire incidents without requesting assistance from the suburbs.

As a result of all the massive reductions, the **injury rate of firefighters has more than doubled**. This also has a cost factor because injured fire fighters are replaced by firefighters on overtime. Many injuries require the medical services of a specialist, plus prescriptions, physical therapy, and long periods of recuperation.

As a result of the increased workload, and previous budget reductions, the DCFD **reserve fleet is in a state of disrepair**. There have been numerous times when there has been **no reserve fire apparatus** to replace front line fire trucks when these units have been placed out of service due to mechanical problems.

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Our Principal, Emily Crandall, has asked me to thank you and the Foggy Bottom Association for contributing to the School Without Walls Safeway/Giant receipts collection drive. This year the students in our National Honor Society embraced this effort as a school service initiative and were especially pleased to receive community support. Over the years we have received an electronic keyboard, tape recorders, printers and most recently a portable public address system.

Please visit our school anytime to observe how this equipment contributes to our instructional program. We are very appreciative of your thoughtfulness and continuing neighborly support.

Lynn Kauffman  
Librarian

## St. Mary's To Hold Bazaar

A Bazaar and Bake Sale will be held at St. Mary's Court on Wednesday, June 5, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Weather permitting, there will also be a cookout with hot dogs, hamburgers and Italian sausage. Donations for sale at the bazaar are appreciated and can be brought to the front desk *until May 29*. Most items are welcome, including clothing, but books are not needed — they have enough.



# Foggy Bottom Folks

The man seems to be unstoppable. For the sixth year in a row, **Tom Murphy**, realtor extraordinaire, specialist in Foggy Bottom/West End and other downtown properties and *Foggy Bottom New* advertiser, won the Rufus Award from the Washington D.C. Association of Realtors. His award was for the highest number of residential transactions, 20 more than his runner-up. The award in the dollar-volume category was won by **Gigi Winston**, who also advertises in the *News* and concentrates on downtown properties.

Nice things happen when you work on the *News*. **Kate Clinton**, who delivers the paper in the 23rd and L Streets area, is planning a wedding in June. Her fiancé is named Bill Mullen and he will be moving here from Phoenix. Our very best wishes, Kate!

**Milton Carrow** and friend Betty Friedan were featured at a symposium held on three evenings this spring at Mount Vernon College on Foxhall Road. The subject was "Transcending the War Between the Sexes: A New Paradigm for Women and Men," and a prestigious list of panelists participated in the discussion led by Carrow and Friedan. It was sponsored by Mount Vernon's School of Business, Communication and Policy Studies and The Center for Women and Work.

We've had a report that **Gary Heurich's** Foggy Bottom Ale was served at a recent opening at the Corcoran Gallery. When exhibits of amazing glass sculptures entitled "Seaforms" by Dale Chihuly and poignant hospice photographs were shown, the brew was in evidence, according to **Laetitia Combrinck**.

Have you noticed that the famous (or infamous) orange roof has disappeared from Virginia Avenue? I certainly have, since it constituted a portion of the view from my backyard for many a year. It is reported that this distinctive feature of Howard Johnson hotels and motels is being phased out.

We are already missing **Robin Young**, who served on the Foggy Bottom Association Board this past year, and who has returned to her home town, Benton, Arkansas. Robin, who lived on 25th Street with a small white fluff of a dog, is an attorney, and she will be in private practice with an established lawyer there. You know whom to call if you run into trouble in Arkansas, the Land of Oppor-

tunity. We trust it will be her land of opportunity!

We heard from **Count Serge Tolstoy** of St. Mary's Court that he has indeed been pictured in *Cigar International* magazine, and made an appearance on CNN. He is shown with the president of Cigar Club International.

The weather, for a change, cooperated superbly for the Cherry Blossom Parade, and wasn't it nice the blossoms were in bloom for the festival — also for a change? It was a good day for almost any outdoor activity, and to the great outdoors went a crew to pitch in and clean the 26th Street park. When I stopped by, I saw eight enthusiastic workers, led by **Mary Brewster** who has taken care of the park for years, and husband **Robert**, who supports her efforts and

even made cookies for this event. Others "lured" by lemonade and cookies — and satisfaction with work well done — were **Grace Watson**, **Lisa Farrell** and **Kathleen Read**, all wielding brooms and rakes. **Bob Slusser** from Hughes Mews was also in evidence, as were **Melanie** and **Ray Chamberlain**, filling a raft of trash bags and starting the mini-park on another season free of piled-up leaves and dead plants. Hats off, guys and gals!

**The Molinelli's** have a new addition to their home on F Street, a black and white Shih Tzu presented to them by their veterinarian daughter, **Jamey**. Seems as though a woman who was her mistress couldn't keep her any longer so Jamey thought of her parents who love animals.

Wanted to correct my "good-bye" to **Mike Kekker**, whom I reported was leaving FB and his job at St. Paul's Episcopal

Church. The latter is true but the former is not. He reportedly loves the area and definitely intends to continue living here.


FB has another happy retiree, **Paul O'Leary**, who took the plunge in April, leaving the Department of Defense. He and his wife **Jackie Lemire**, who retired from the Health & Human Services last year, promptly took off for the scenic Southwest, but came home in time to enjoy at least some days of spring in D.C. Right now, says Paul, the hardest thing is remembering he doesn't have to do all the chores on Saturday and Sunday anymore.

Didn't I tell you so? **Puff Puffenbarger** was indeed a prize winner for academic advising. He was especially proud of this recognition because, as he said, "it's from the kids."

**Bob Brewster** is taking on an additional library post, as he joins the Board of the Friends of

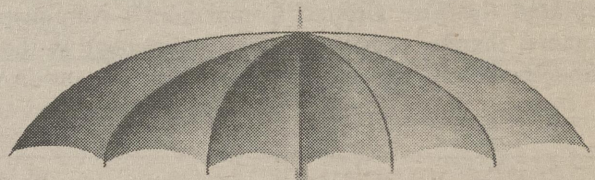
the Libraries at GWU. Also, **Darrell Rumsey** has consented to serve out the second year of Kerry Stowell's term, and joins other community board members **Grace Watson** and **Letitia Combrinck**.

**Jeanine** and **Mark Jackson**, owners of an Eye Street condominium, have moved from their State Department posting in Saudi Arabia to their new assignment in Hong Kong. They are arriving just prior to the transfer of the former British colony to unification with mainland China. They also authored an article in the December issue of *State*, magazine describing several of their Christmas traditions, including music (Jeanine) and waterskiing (Mark). Described were festive times in the Gambia, Switzerland, (they actually did water-ski but had the lake to themselves!); Nigeria, and Saudi Arabia.



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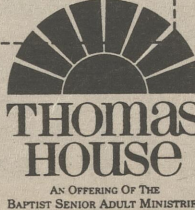
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## Encampment

continued from page 1

town Ministry Center or a program at D.C. General for mentally ill individuals. According to Sgt. Vincent, the squad, established to work on homeless issues, will continue to monitor these areas to prevent new campsites from forming.

J.R. Black, who took the photographs in this issue, was most impressed by the workers and how they tackled this most unpleasant task. Faced with tons of trash, dead rats, and a "noisome" stench, according to Black, some were first repelled and retreated from it. Even the dust was irritating to the skin, but several went to work and soon the others joined in "with a will." Black is unstinting in his praise for these workers, stating it was in all respects a personal sacrifice for which they are owed a grand salute.

*The Hatchet*, GWU's student newspaper, asked in an editorial whether or not it was the university's business and answered that it was politically motivated, the university hoping to curry



Photos by J.R. Black

Above: The cleanup crew poses after a job well done and lower right, another load goes up the hill.

favor with the ANC and the FBA. The paper suggested that they hoped the community might stop opposing GWU projects, "which from experience doesn't seem likely."

## Recycling Schedule Has Changed

The curbside collection of recyclable materials has been changed from weekly to bi-weekly, and the day has been changed from Friday to Tuesday. Following are the days for the rest of the year; you might want to post this list in a convenient place.

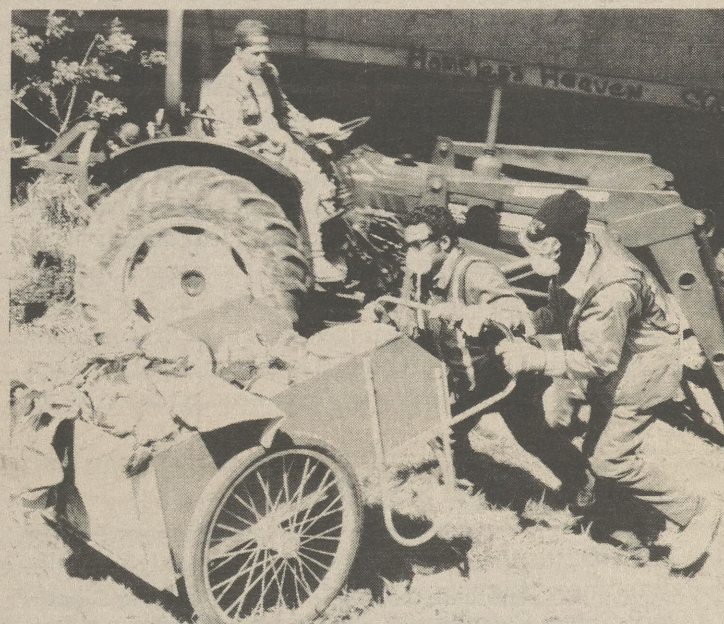
May 28\*  
June 11  
June 25  
July 9  
July 23  
August 6  
August 20  
September 3\*

September 17  
October 1  
October 15  
October 29  
November 12  
November 26  
December 10  
December 24

Recyclables which can be picked up are *newspapers, plastic* (look for #1 or #2 on the bottom), *metal* and *junk mail*. And since they may stay around your homes for longer periods, **RINSE OUT METAL CONTAINERS** — to keep the "critters" away. And heard also that they want materials placed loose in the green bins — that is, not put in bags — the easier, I guess to get it all sorted later on.

\*Since May 27 and September 2 are holidays, it is quite possible that both regular trash pickup and recyclables pickup will be delayed until the next day.

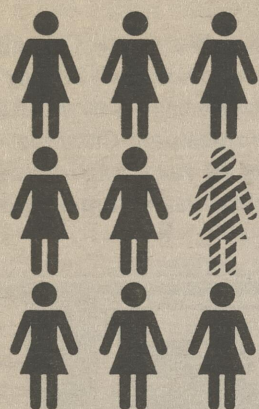
Do you have some news to share? A nice story about one of your neighbors? Word about happenings or about-to-be-happenings in Foggy Bottom/West End is always welcome for the *News*. Write to the FBN in care of the West End Library, or call 337-5528.



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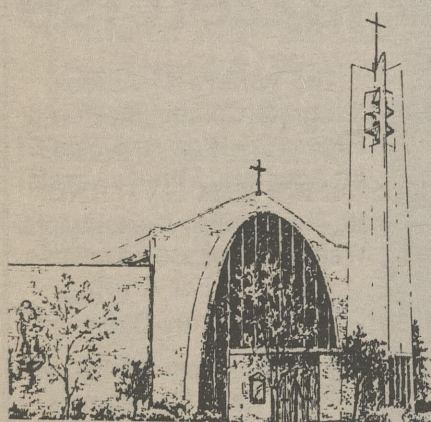
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P.S. Of the thousands of real estate agents in Washington, in 1990 through 1995, Tom ranked number 1 in total number of sales transactions.



## Council Comments

By Jack Evans

### Council Review of the FY '97 Budget

Knowing how important the D.C. Budget is to several institutions in the Foggy Bottom neighborhood, I wanted to use this column to share the latest D.C. Budget news with you. The D.C. Council should soon begin its annual review of the District budget for Fiscal Year '97 (FY 97). At this time, we are waiting for the Mayor's office and the Control Board to complete their reviews (most likely to occur in mid-May). After this the D.C. Council will have a 30-day period to conduct public hearings and vote on the budget before returning it to the Control Board. I expect the Council hearings will take place in late May.

### Possible Fire Department Cuts

As you may recall the D.C. Fire Department suffered a setback when the Control Board reversed my efforts to increase this Department's funding for the current fiscal year. Following on the heels of this setback are even more troubling proposals to further reduce services offered by the Fire Department.

The reduction proposals stem from recommendations of a project team which conducted a comprehensive review of fire suppression operations and deployment. Unfortunately, the project team's recommendations to close four apparatuses and to move four apparatuses translate into serious service reductions for Foggy Bottom. Of particular concern to the Foggy Bottom community is the proposal to close Engine #1 at 2225 M Street, N.W. and Engine #9 at 1617 U Street, N.W.

These proposals are not definite. The Mayor must submit the Fire Department's proposal to the Council, and the Council must approve it before it becomes effective. As such, I am already working to offset these proposals. My first step is to arrange a meeting for Foggy Bottom/West End residents where the Fire Department can discuss their proposal and hear the concerns of the community. I will work with the Foggy Bottom Association to publicize this meeting once a date, time and location have been approved by the Fire Department.

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### Foggy Bottom News

Also, the Committee on the Judiciary will conduct a public hearing on the proposal and I will work with FBA to ensure a good turnout from the neighborhood. **Your input, whether in live or written testimony before the Council is crucial. Participate! Participate!**

### Good News For The Library

Given the importance of the West End Library to Foggy Bottom, I pay special attention to the budget for the Library Department. It appears the Mayor's budget request proposal for the next fiscal year (FY 97) will be \$21,832,000. This is a slight increase over the previous year's request of \$20,742,000. In addition, at this time, there is no change in the number of full-time employees within the Library system. Hopefully, these numbers will be sustained; however, I will continue to watch this most important area.

### More Problems For Metro

The Mayor's budget request for Fiscal Year 1997 provided an operating subsidy to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), of approximately \$130 million. WMATA, however, requires a payment of \$135 million in order to maintain current Metrobus and Metrorail service levels in the District of Columbia.

In order to address the \$5 million funding gap, the Mayor's representative to the WMATA Board of Directors proposed Metrobus service reductions (minor "headway adjustments" which can be accomplished under the WMATA General Manager's authority without a public hearing) and a \$.15 increase in base Metrobus fare (which will require a public hearing before becoming effective). At this time, no public hearing is scheduled. In the meanwhile, I am doing everything I can to fill the \$5 million funding gap.

## Volunteers Needed In Our Area

### Project Northstar Mentors

A program called Project Northstar, providing mentors to at-risk children, needs volunteers to tutor homeless and formerly homeless children at Francis Junior High School. Francis is located at 24th & N

Streets, and volunteers are asked to work a few hours a week. To help, call John Wilson, 223-0144.

### Help for Cancer Patients

American Cancer Society needs Patients Intake Coordinators and Information

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Volunteers. The former are needed for 3-4 hours a day Monday through Friday to answer patient/family and health care profession calls requesting nutritional supplements and home care dressing for cancer patients. Training is provided. The information volunteers assist with special events and community awareness campaigns as well as general office duties. For details on both types of volunteers, call 202-438-2600.

### Help IONA with "Age in Place" Services

IONA Senior Services, which serves seniors in Foggy Bottom and other areas, needs volunteers for its Home Care Support program, Medical Claims Assistants and Friendly Visitors. Among the duties are visits to an isolated older person recovering from an illness or accident, grocery and/or prescription shopping, and checking on paid help. Call Mary Teresa at IONA (Independence, Opportunity, a Network for Aging) at 202-966-1055.

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## Rennie Remembers . . .

### California, Here I Come!

Needing a respite badly, I decided to go out of town for a week. California was my choice. I had been to Los Angeles only when returning to the U.S. from New Delhi in 1959, and to San Francisco years later. California, here I come! To see the famous residence of newspaper publisher/movie producer, Wm. Randolph Hearst — "Hearst Castle" in San Simeon; to tour and stay overnight on the Queen Mary ship (now hotel) in Long Beach; to walk around the Old Town and the Gas Lamp District and stay overnight in San Diego; and, lastly, to stay overnight at the historic Hotel del Coronado on lovely Coronado Island.

At the Los Angeles airport, I boarded a commuter plane for a short flight to the San Luis Obispo Airport, where I was picked up by a limousine called "One Rose Limousine Service" from Paso Robles. (I had learned, when making hotel reservations, that there is no airport, taxi or bus service there, thus necessitating a limousine for the hour's drive to San Simeon.) I had a nice chat enroute with the limousine owner/driver, Mr. Anderson, who not only drove me to the motel and waited during my registration, but carried my bags up to my room.

The exterior of the motel was not inviting (gray painted, wood siding). To my surprise, however, my spacious room faced a large courtyard with a lovely lawn, huge pine trees and a fountain. Its furnishings ap-

peared to be new and in good taste — no complaints! I bid adieu to Mr. Anderson, who would come back for me two days later. After unpacking, I went to a nearby restaurant for dinner, which was much better than the plane's food (especially the homemade cherry pie, yum yum).

The next morning I sauntered down the block to the "San Simeon Restaurant," and enjoyed breakfast of juice, buttermilk pancakes with heated butter/syrup, and coffee — not my usual breakfast, but, hey, it's vacation time! Then I walked across the highway to gaze at the sun and ocean — a beautiful sight! Outside of the motel, at 9 a.m., the limousine from Cambria arrived with sweet driver, Tommy McIntyre (of Glasgow, Scotland), for my short ride to the Visitors Center of the Hearst Castle. Having purchased my tickets for all four tours (taking two tours each on two separate days), I boarded the Tour #1 Bus for the ride up the Santa Lucia mountains to the Castle. (Tommy would return for me in the afternoon after Tour No. 2.) The weather was unbelievably comfortable at the mountain top, i.e. sunny, dry and breezy.

William Randolph Hearst and his assistant/architect, plus expert craftsmen, labored almost 28 years to create this magnificent estate of 165 rooms, 127 acres of gardens, terraces, pools, walkways and statuary. Tour #1 was delightful because of the many fetching sights, even though it required much stair climbing outside and inside. There is an impressive collection of Spanish and Italian antiques

throughout the estate, given the name "La Cuesta Enantada" (The Enchanted Hill). My group was taken to an 18-room cottage called "La Casa del Sol," where we entered four lovely bedrooms, each with bath/toilet facilities and sitting rooms. Lucky guests! The four-poster beds were covered with exquisite satin spreads. Each room had unusual ceilings — carved wood or colorfully painted murals. Many religious paintings hung in each room and hallway. I assumed that Hearst was very religious. When I inquired if he was, I was told by the guide that he was not (apparently an art lover, however). What especially attracted my attention, besides the satin spreads, paintings and ceilings, were the antique amethyst lamps with fringed shades. I love art deco objects!

In the main house, "Casa Grande," we walked around the Assembly Room (the largest sitting room of the 14 in the Castle); the large Refectory, where Hearst and his guests dined (the only dining area on the estate); the Billiard and Morning Rooms; and the indoor theatre, where Hearst showed Hollywood-made movies as well as home movies of his guests swimming, playing tennis, etc. in the 1930s and 1940s. It was fun seeing a film showing Clark Gable, Carol Lombard, Charlie Chaplin, et al., playing tennis. We then strolled about the Esplanade and gardens graced with Greek and Roman statuary. My favorite sights, besides the landscaping, were the outdoor Neptune Pool, the indoor Roman Pool and the movie theatre. After the 1-1/2 hour tour in the morning, the bus returned to the Visitors Center, where I had yogurt and hot tea before visiting the exhibit there of old photographs and information on the Castle's construction in 1929. Someone shouted out that the O.J.'s jury verdict had been reached, and that it was "Acquittal." (Most of us groaned; secretly I was glad that there now would be no riot in Los Angeles, my next stop.)

Afterwards, I boarded the Tour No. 2 bus and rode up to the estate. This tour included the upper floors of the main house, "Casa Grande": a suite with a balcony similar to one in Venice's Doge's Palace; four guest rooms (Cloister Rooms); the huge library (5,000 books and ancient Greek vases on top of all of the huge bookcases); Hearst's private suite, study and bedroom on the entire third floor; the adjoining bedroom of his mistress (Marion Davies, famous movie star); and the spacious kitchen and pantry.

One could surmise that Hearst and his female architect/assistant, et al., certainly succeeded in creating his elegant and livable residence in a glorious setting high on a mountaintop.

Tommy picked me up as scheduled after the tour. He suggested I have dinner at the Cavalier Inn Restaurant across from the motel. I walked over to the restaurant later and had a wonderful meal with excellent service, a cup of clam chowder, lobster tail, pilaf, salad and a glass of Cabernet wine (California, of course). Delicious!

On the way back to my room, I purchased yogurt and juice at a nearby grocery store. Since it was still light outside, I decided to walk on the street behind the motels, where I briefly stopped to watch two men playing tennis. A darling kitten came over to "talk" to me, and I petted it, hoping it was not lost. However, it followed me for two blocks and I was becoming emotionally upset — I knew I couldn't take it to my room — it rejected my offering of yogurt and, instead, climbed the stairs of the motel with me! At that point, I began feeling weepy for the dear creature, who was apparently hungry and lost. I went hurriedly into the room and glanced out the window. It was not there. Being a cat lover, I prayed that it went to its own home. I turned my thoughts to the next day's tours 3 and 4, and eventually fell asleep.

I had breakfast again at the San Simeon Restaurant (this time, only a bowl of fresh fruit, a bran muffin and coffee). Tommy arrived to take me for my last two tours at the Castle. Another beautiful day. Tour No. 3 consisted of another so-called cottage (10 rooms) called "Casa del Monte"; "Casa Grande's" north wing (three floors of guestrooms); and the "Grand Entrance" (north terrace) of the estate.

Tour No. 4 bus, after my brief lunch at the Visitors Center, took us to see the outdoor wonders, the fountains, gardens, the Neptune Pool's 17 dressing rooms, and the wine cellar of the Casa Grande. Also, we toured the largest and most elaborate guest cottage, "Casa del Mar," where Hearst decided to reside during his final years.

Although I had made four round-trips by bus to and from the estate, I did enjoy the eight 15-minute rides around the mountains, passing what was left of Hearst's zoo cages and noticing several types of wild animals (elk, goats and deer) grazing. I was met by my limousine driver and, when back at the motel, I packed, checked out, and waited for my other limousine driver to take me to the San Luis Obispo Airport (for Los Angeles).

Continuing my California trip: The American Eagle Commuter, with only two other people, had left San Luis Obispo and reached L.A. within an hour. Outside the airport, I rushed around frantically in the dark for an available bus going to my hotel area. With the help of strangers, I was advised to take a "Super Shuttle Van" nearby; one was expected soon. I boarded the van and began chatting with a friendly lady next to me about L.A. and D.C. during the long drive up Sunset Boulevard. The historic Argyle Hotel is located on Sunset, across from the infamous Chateau Marmont Hotel. I learned later that both are residences of present and past movie stars. (I was curious about the Marmont and planned on going there the next morning to see the lobby and grounds. I recalled that John Belushi died there not too long ago!)

Finally, the driver located the Argyle Hotel and dropped me off. (He handed me his card for my trip to Long Beach the next day for my tour/overnight stay on the historic Queen Mary, now a museum/hotel.) The hotel had been built in 1930; to my delight photos of many old-time movie stars lined the walls of the art-deco lobby and hallways. I was escorted to a cul-de-sac room, which was small and over-furnished: the bed was single, oval-shaped and upholstered, situated in front of a bay window at an angle, across from a black writing desk with a fax machine, menus, magazines, and matching chair; a large plant stood in the opposite corner near a tiny boudoir chair with flowered cushion, and a circular beige table held a silver/glass ice bucket with tong;

*continued on page 8*

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## Rennie

continued from page 7

another circular beige table held a phone and black and white lamp; against the wall was a blond wooden armoire, three corner shelves with a television set, VCR, refrigerator and snacks. The bathroom: there was no door; the interior of the sink was circular and silver-plated with matching faucets; the area around the sink was marble; two art-deco glass wall sconces; a large, white-framed sink mirror; a black wastebasket; a large tub with chromium handles on both sides; marble floor and marble toilet bowl with flush handle on top; a large, framed print of flowers; and a wall phone!

Luckily, I had only one night's stay there — heavy/noisy traffic on the Boulevard I knew would be keeping me awake all night (I had requested a quiet area when reserving room, ha!). Before having dinner in their lovely restaurant, I spoke with the charming desk clerk regarding the possible transfer to the bathroom of the provocative Picasso print (an odd-looking nude couple!) in front of the bed (and the flower print brought to the bedroom). To my surprise, when I returned to the room, this had not been done, and I had to call the desk clerk again, who informed me that apparently the men went to another room. Two young men finally came, but they did not have the nails to hang the different size frames. I then told them to just take the Picasso and return it after I left the hotel. No objections, they said sweetly. (At the rate I was paying for one night, I should have also complained about the noisy location of the room and the cigarette holes in the rug!) Took a hot shower and, for fun, donned the large white terrycloth robe hanging nearby, pretending I was adorable Marilyn Monroe, who was photographed in hers a lot. (Oh, what a difference when I wore it!)

After eating breakfast on a small roof next to a poolside, where two cute young wannabe-starlets were glancing at "Variety," I had a free half hour before the reserved "Super Shuttle Van" arrived. I brought down my bag and checked out, leaving the bag with doorman, so that I could hurriedly run across the busy Boulevard to see a bit of the lovely tall Chateau Marmont. Immediately I was impressed with the imposing structure with Mexican red tiles as well as the picturesque patio entrance to the small quaint lobby, where I obtained a brochure of rates and amenities — I wished then that I had chosen this hotel instead. Off to Long Beach!

To be continued  
Rennie Melonson

## Recipes Worth Repeating

### CIRCULAR SPRING SALAD SECRET SIMPLE SAUCE or BRINE SPECTACULAR, yet SIMPLE DESSERT

From Joan Sugarman

Welcome to spring in Washington. Acknowledgement of severe omission or BLUNDER! Telephone calls indicate I FORGOT to give the oven temperature for the roasted chicken recipe: it is 425 degrees. However, some ovens, and some oven trays are too high or low and browning takes place more quickly at different levels or heats. Watch that chicken! If browning is too quick, lower temperature slightly, and/or cover leg ends with aluminum foil or cover lightly (tent on top not folded onto roaster) making a foil lid. Use lower heat to achieve a perfect even brown color for chicken.

It is time to use those freezer packages with missing labels. Perhaps in your freezer that nameless bag feeling like corn pellets turns out to be cranberries. Welcome it to the most wondrous salad. (Cranberries are notable for needing nothing but a heavy bag and label for immediate freezing.)

NOW . . . you are ready to prepare CIRCULAR SPRING SALAD . . . **Ingredients:** The left-over lettuce or any greens, like spinach leaves with stems removed or a few mixed greens . . . cover individual salad plate. Grapefruit, orange, tangerine, kumquat, lemon yellow rind strings and lemon juice and CRANBERRIES. Apples (cored, sliced across, in lemon juice water) **To Prepare:** Peel grapefruit: slice across segments maintaining a perfect round slice which holds together. Do the same for largest orange working down in size to cranberries. Place them on lettuce either in one stack or strategically and sprinkle salad with lemon juice, which may be sweetened. The repeated patterns are similar and allow for you to be creative. Thin apple slices (identical to cranberries in pattern, if sliced across) are optional. Best of other optional fruits in season might be a guava or any other very ripe fruit in season. For added salad dressing use cilantro mashed and mixed with canned pineapple juice or any other fruit juice and shaken. If you add a little yogurt nice body will result and you can make a wondrous lime salad dressing similarly. No measurements: your tongue and eye are ample.

#### BRINE

This strange mixture produces succulent potato salad, cole slaw and any number of wondrous sauces with other ingredients. It came from a woman who hated to cook or measure things. I watched her and have meticulously followed her procedures. IT ALWAYS WORKS! When I try to use measurements, I FAIL. I call it secretly MINNIE'S RECIPE FOR BRINE. I cannot even vary the liquid ingredient of vinegar.

Take a bowl (I like one with a narrower bottom than top). Cover the bottom with sugar until it is about 1/2" thick. Sprinkle with

pepper (I use freshly ground pepper, both coarse and light). Do this until you cannot see the sugar. When the bottom is black with pepper, sprinkle with salt until you can't see the pepper. Take boiling water (I use about 3/4 cup, but more can be used). Slowly pour into bowl, stirring constantly and well. When no gritty feel touches the spoon, all is dissolved. THEN, add an amount of white vinegar equal to the amount of water used. Stir well. NOW . . . cider vinegar won't work, nor Balsamic vinegar either, and it doesn't have to be expensive wine vinegar.

This "brew" when mixed with good mayonnaise (to a thick consistency, makes surprisingly wonderful potato salad dressing. In it, as is, sliced thick cucumbers and sharp onions together become a side dish. Vegetables need to marinate about an hour before serving. The longer these ingredients stay in the brine the softer they become. It is perfect for marinating cooked beets.

This brine holds up in a covered container for some time, if refrigerated. I can't seem to make it perfectly in measuring cups!

**SPECTACULAR DESSERT: Ingredients:** Collect all of the ripening fruit in the refrigerator, plums, apricots, nectarines, bananas, seedless grapes of all colors, and dried cranberries, and chopped nuts: fruits in season are best. Don't use fresh pineapple. Dice or slice in a salad mold. Use dried cranberries and even seedless raisins and make bowls of different fruits, berries or nuts, to make various fruit layers in container. Packages of unflavored gelatin, sugarfree gelatin in colors, lemons or limes for juice, liquid sweetener. **Procedure:** Using 2 unflavored gelatin packages, and the juices of two large lemons and artificial liquid sweetener, add boiling water 3/4 or less of total amount on package, stir, cool a bit and cover sliced fruit in bottom of container. Chill until firm. Add another ring or layer of fruit. Take some of the gelatin liquid and mash in it fresh strawberries for color and pour on fruit, again chill. Finally, add fat-free fruit flavored yogurt to complete balance of liquid for unflavored gelatin, stir well until there are no lumps and you have a creamy white gelatin liquid. One small container is about right. Chill, unmold and decorate before serving: it's filling, rich and guiltless!

Substitute sugar-free fruit gelatin for color if you wish, using about 1/3 less boiling water to assure gelatin's firmness with fruit. Intersperse chopped nuts or crunchy cranberries if fruit is too soft. Make layers by color, by taste, by texture or whatever you prefer. Serve thin slices, top with yogurt and nuts.

This can be made by or with children or YAULTS — Young Adults.

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